

Why Build Green?

Buildings have a big impact on the environment. Over their life cycle, buildings account for 40% of US energy consumption, 25% of water use, and 30–40% of wood and materials use. Buildings also generate 20–30% of the solid waste stream and 25% of greenhouse gas emissions. Building just one 2,000 square foot house uses 1.5 acres of forest and can generate 13 tons of waste.

Our buildings also have a big impact on us; most of us spend more than 90% of our time indoors. Our indoor air is up to 10 times more polluted than outdoors due to inadequate ventilation and off-gassing of chemicals found in many building materials.

By addressing these issues when designing, constructing, and remodeling buildings, we can minimize a variety of environmental impacts, improve human health and productivity, and save money.

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Design: www.origenmarketing.com



GREEN

Building

Brought to you by
Contra Costa
County and the
City of San Ramon



Contact Us!

Visit our websites to find Green Building Guidelines, fact sheets, the latest news and features, and links to other Internet resources.

www.cccrecycle.org
www.sanramon.ca.gov

Check the websites for the current location of our **Green Building Materials display**. It offers information about a variety of Green Building materials and includes product samples you can touch and feel!

If you have specific Green Building questions, **Ask an Expert!** Contra Costa residents and building professionals can contact the Green Resource Center for a wealth of free Green Building information via the Internet or by phone. Visit:
www.GreenResourceCenter.org or call
1-888-40-GREEN or 1-888-404-7336

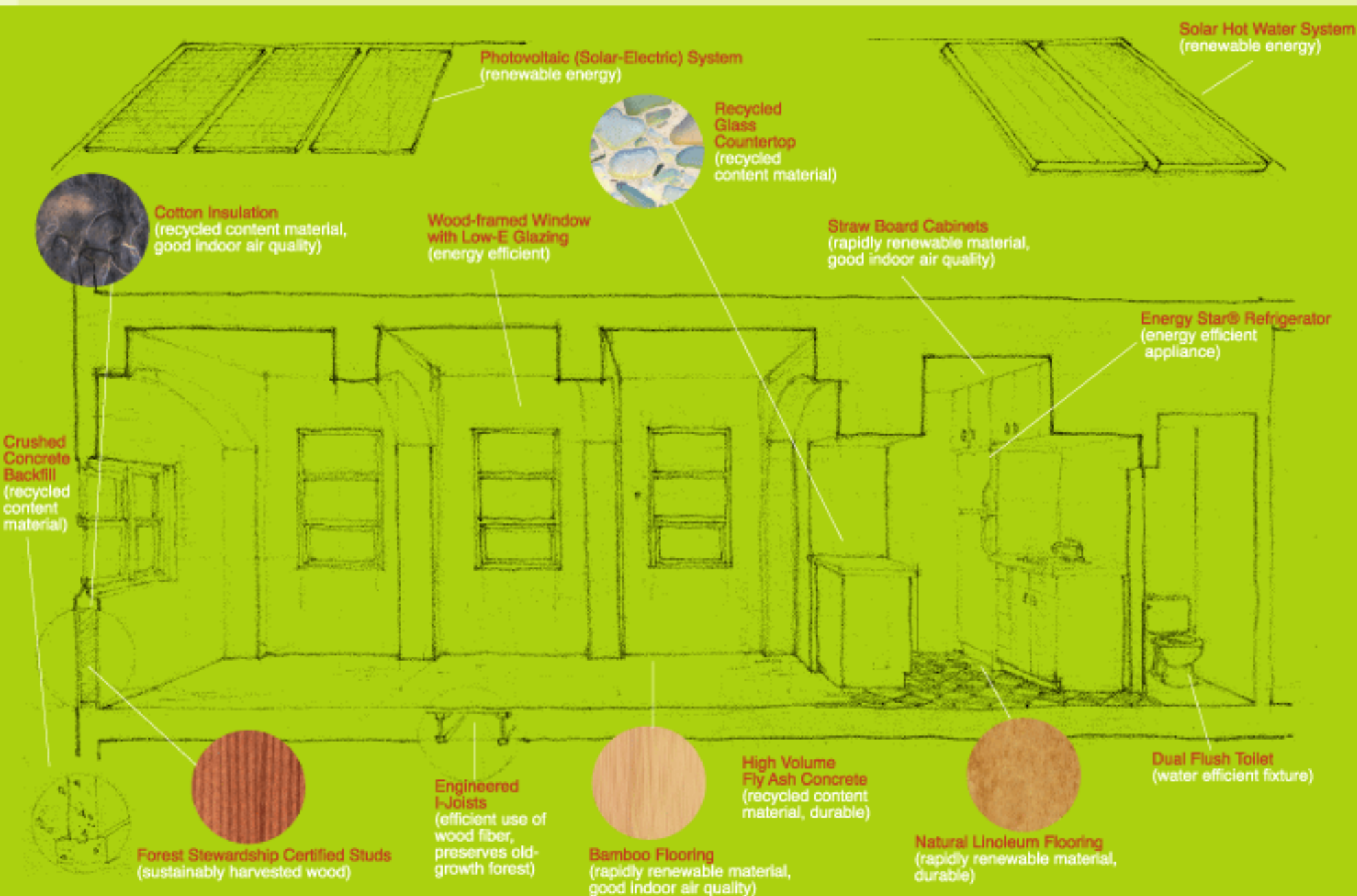
To schedule

a Green Building presentation for your organization or event, or to order a free copy of the Green Building Guidelines,

e-mail gb@cccrecycle.org,
call the County at (925) 335-1230 or the
City of San Ramon at (925) 973-2580.

What Is Green Building?

Green Building is a holistic approach to building design and construction that enhances human and environmental health by conserving materials and energy, and minimizing pollution. The following are examples of some products and materials used in Green Building:



Easy Steps to a Greener Home

To save energy, water, and reduce your utility bills:

1. Use fluorescent or compact fluorescent lighting (CFLs) indoors and outdoors.
2. Install high efficiency heating and cooling systems. Seal ducts tight with mastic rather than tape.
3. Install high quality insulation like cellulose or foam. Weatherstrip doors and windows.
4. Install water and energy-efficient appliances and plumbing fixtures. Repair water leaks immediately.
5. Install a roof radiant barrier and continuous ridge and soffit vents.
6. Buy low-e windows. Shade windows with solar screens, awnings, roof overhangs, and trees.
7. Take advantage of utility rebates. Have your home tested for energy efficiency.

To improve indoor air quality and protect your health:

8. Use high quality pleated media filters.
9. Measure and control indoor humidity.
10. Use paints and adhesives with minimal volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and use less toxic cleaning products.
11. Install hard floors like tile, natural linoleum, cork or stained concrete to reduce allergens.

To reduce maintenance costs and materials use:

12. Use durable roofing, siding, and deck materials.
13. Use local and recycled building materials.
14. Recycle construction waste and donate excess materials.

To protect creeks, the Bay, and save water:

15. Use mulch, swales and pervious paving to retain rainwater on your site.
16. Plant native and drought-tolerant plants and use efficient irrigation technology. Maintain good soil with compost and safer pest control methods.

Most importantly...

17. Research and plan first to save headaches later. If you're hiring a remodeling contractor, pick a qualified Green Building professional. The Green Resource Center is a good place to start.